

Ms. Copps: What about now?

Mr. Mazankowski: This was detected by the Food Advisory Board and the Agricultural Food Safety Division. As a matter of fact, the systematic process for re-evaluation is in place.

In terms of the whole pesticide registration process, it certainly did not develop over the last three or four years, but it represents some years of neglect before we came into office. We had to put into place the type of systems, checks and balances, which we did, and which have identified these weaknesses, and, Mr. Speaker, we are acting.

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• (1150)

[Translation]

FREE TRADE

REQUEST GOVERNMENT UNVEIL ITS ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR VICTIMS

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, during the recent election campaign, the Prime Minister said there would be winners and losers after the Free Trade Agreement was in place. The Prime Minister never misses an opportunity to tell us who the winners will be. But he has never spelled out clearly who the losers will be.

We know there will be victims. The Government knows there will be victims.

My question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Is the Government ready to admit there will be victims? Is the Government ready to announce now, today, its assistance plan for the thousands of workers throughout Canada who have already lost their jobs, and those who will lose them, because of the Free Trade Agreement?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I wish to congratulate the Hon. Member on his election to this House.

In answer to his question, the Canadian people, as a whole, are going to be winners as a result of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, the results of the election indicate that the Canadian people agree with the Progressive Conservative Party that, overall, we are

Oral Questions

going to win as a result of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

It has been admitted from the start that there will be some industries that will suffer from adjustments. All of the gains cannot be on one side. This is an agreement between two parties.

One area in which there will be the need for adjustment, as we already know, is that of grape production, and with that in mind this Government, in conjunction with the provinces in which there is grape production, instituted certain assistance programs.

While there may be other industries which will suffer adverse effects, overall we are gainers, as the figures of the Economic Council of Canada that I mentioned had indicated.

We are talking about an adjustment period of 10 years. I have in my hand a list of companies which have just announced expansion programs—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Crosbie: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the Opposition is going to bring up the case of every person in Canada who they allege has suffered a job loss as a result of this agreement, an agreement not yet in force and effect, surely we can put forth the figures in respect of job gains.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, the unemployment insurance program is not enough for the families of the 600 workers who are losing their jobs at Gillette. The unemployment insurance system is not enough for the 900 workers at Northern Telecom. The unemployment insurance program is not enough for the 140 workers at Pittsburgh Paint.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister: is this absence of a commitment by the Government all the answer Canadians are going to get?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the answers being given to Canadians are satisfying those who are taking a reasoned approach to this question. Canadians know that there will be some losers, and they know that we are dedicated to ensuring that those who will be losers temporarily are assisted.